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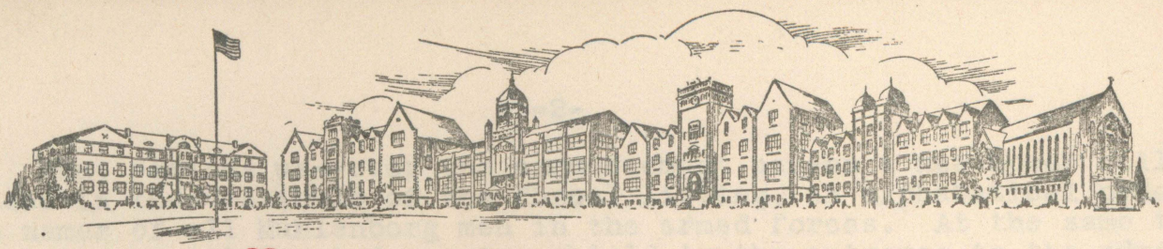

MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

June 30, 1944
Number 38

Dear Everybody Everywhere:

It has been three weeks since I wrote to you the last time and here are my apologies (bending low) for delaying this letter one week. Around here time just slips away and, as I said at least once before, there should be 36 hours in a day to get everything done that is on the schedule. Some of you know what I'm talking about and the rest of you will just have to take our word for it.

Chief reason for the delay was commencement and the activities centering around that day on the Muhlenberg campus. We had our graduation in the Chapel last Sunday afternoon and gave diplomas to 33 men and two women. At the same time special certificates were presented to 129 Bluejackets and Marines who completed their training in the Navy V-12 unit and who were moved on to new training stations to continue their work as officer candidates. You'll recall that it was the third commencement of the year.

Among those who received degrees were ten men who left their regular college classes at Muhlenberg a year or more ago to enter the armed forces and who received academic credit for some of the courses they took as they trained to become officers. They include Ensign James F. Butterwick, Ensign Boyd Walker, Ensign Frederick Bowman, Marine Private J. Henry Brown, Apprentice Seaman John J. Meyerdierks, Ensign Harold V. Stewart, Ensign Walfrid Warren Swenson, Ensign Dennis Webster, Ensign Charles Woodworth, and Ensign LeRoy Ziegenfuss. Two other Marine in the V-12 unit also received degrees, Private Samuel R. Richeson and Howard G. Blank. We'll tell you all about commencement, including the address by Captain John Kelvey Richards of the Midshipmen's School at Columbia, in the next issue of the Alumni Magazine, due toward the end of July.

The men assigned to other training stations are going principally to the Marine Corps base at Parris Island and to Midshipmen's Schools at Northwestern University, Notre Dame, Columbia, and Plattsburgh. Others went to the Pre-Midshipmen's School at Asbury Park, to the Marine base at New River, to Villanova's engineering school, to Bucknell, to the University of Pennsylvania, and to a few other schools for specialized training.

To take the place of those assigned to new duties, we are receiving at least 175 new trainees today and tomorrow to maintain the training unit at its full strength of 460 Bluejackets and Marines. This term--the fourth of our combined military and civilian program--the Bluejacket will greatly outnumber the Leathernecks.

Incidentally, around here we're pretty proud of the fact that only 17 men in the unit failed to meet the very rigid college and Navy standards during the last term. They were moved on to other stations for boot training.

As you know, there were no alumni activities over the commencement season other than the Allentown Alumni Club's party at the Livingston club last Friday night. It was a good party and among those attending were Lieutenant Colonel Roland Hartman '31, temporarily home from Hawaii, and Ensign Fritz Raker '40, back for a short leave after duty on a fighting ship in the Pacific. When you drop in at College, ask Dr. Tyson to see the "portrait" the alumni gave to him and don't confuse it with the very fine oil painting that was presented to the College the previous week and hung in the reception room of the Chapel.

That reminds us--over the commencement season a new honor roll was placed in the vestibule of the Chapel listing, in alphabetical order, the names of all Muhlenberg men in the armed forces. At the same time, we placed an illuminated service shield in the entrance to the administration building to indicate the number of men in the armed forces. The shield is so constructed that the numbers on the two stars may be changed each day as new names are received. Today the number on the blue star is 1173. On the gold star it remains at 10. We added 40 names to our alumni roster and to the service list when the V-12 trainees moved out last week. The men who came here directly from high school were automatically added to the list and 25 of the others, all of whom had been enrolled at other colleges or universities before coming to Muhlenberg, asked to be listed as Muhlenberg alumni.

Incidentally, we've just checked the mail and the Loyalty Fund returns and our total to the minute is $6,434.50 with all but $427.50 in cash. We're keeping the books open for a few more days and the final report on what appears to be the most successful fund in the history of the College will be made in the July issue of the Alumni Magazine. Thanks to you fellows for your part in raising it.

Now that we brought you up-to-date on the events of the last few weeks, so far as the academic side of the College is concerned, here's the picture of the sports season:

Our baseball team won six games and lost eight. We defeated Lehigh 10 to 4 and 10 to 3, Ursinus 7 to 4, Lafayette 23 to 3, Bloomsburg 9 to 6, and Swarthmore 7 to 4. We lost to F. and M. 13 to 9, to Villanova 11 to 3, to Penn State 2 to 0 and 3 to 0, to Bucknell 7 to 6, to Princeton 3 to 1, to F. and M. a second time 9 to 8 and to Bucknell in a return game 9 to 1. Now that the season's over, we'll start thinking of football once again--with another Navy-Civilian team.

The tennis team defeated Lehigh 7 to 2 and 5 to 4. Losses were to Swarthmore 7 to 2, to the University of Pennsylvania 9 to 0, to Bucknell 5 to 4, to Penn State 9 to 0, to Swarthmore 5 to 4, and to Bucknell 6 to 3.

We brought you up-to-date on track in the last letter, so we won't repeat.

Here's something that should delight at least a handful of Muhlenberg men. As usual, we held the Junior Oratorical Contest this year and the winner was Apprentice Seaman Donald Lehrkinder, a loyal Gettysburgian both before and after he was assigned to the Navy V-12 unit. The thing that gave us the thump was that Lehrkinder chose as his subject, "The Time to Fight" and based it entirely upon the life of Major General John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg.

Back on the sports schedule again, there are no football games scheduled at Muhlenberg after October 28, the reason being that the Navy will graduate a class at that time and a new group will enter the training program. As the schedule now stands we play Bucknell at Allentown on September 16, Bucknell at Lewisburg on September 23, Penn State at State College on September 30, Swarthmore at Allentown on October 7, Franklin and Marshall at Allentown on October 14, Villanova at Shibe Park in Philadelphia in a night game on October 21, and Franklin and Marshall at Lancaster on October 28.

Lieutenant Philip Vooz '44 reported missing over Germany on May 28 is a prisoner of the Germans, the War Department reported. He fell into German hands on his third mission.

We have heard very little about the part Muhlenberg men played in the invasion of France. But we know definitely that Sergeant Nathan Kline '46, gunner on a flying fortress, was on his 15th aerial mission on D Day. His fortress was one of those assigned to protect landing operations. Kline received the Air Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

Our first letter from "Somewhere in France" came just a day or two ago from Lieutenant Clark Diefenderfer '42. "Since arriving here," he wrote "my days have been full, busy ones and certainly not dull. I've

been in far more comfortable situations! I see now that I should have had my feet propped up in Dr. Corbiere's French class. A little bit of it would go a long way here. At present I'm using a mixture of an Indian sign language and double talk which leaves me behind the eight ball."

We don't have this from Lieutenant Rodney Arner '44 himself, but the Morning Call, which verifies all such events before publishing them, reports that he was married to Melicent Ober of Los Angeles in the West Coast city on June 16.

With commencement, a newspaper assignment in York for three days, the Loyalty Fund, and a dozen other things, the mail really has been piling up during the past three weeks. There's a stack of it here to be answered--and it will be answered as soon as Elsie and I get a chance to breathe--we've promised to start work on it tomorrow. Meanwhile, we'll digest at least a part of the pile for you.

CAPTAIN LEROY MOYER '32, chief of general surgery at a general hospital somewhere in England, was stationed in the same town with LIEUTENANT FRANK BOYER '38 for sometime, but other than that hasn't met any other Muhlenberg men. He says that except for being away from home and family--including a new daughter born in May--he's having a very interesting experience. Writing from an island from somewhere in the Pacific, SERGEANT ROY E. SHUPP '34 reports having been kept "rather busy" for several months, but says that things are a bit easier now.

LIEUTENANT (JG) WILLIAM FLUCK '38 dropped us a few lines on a letterhead of Headquarters, Fifteenth Naval District in the Canal Zone. He has been on the same job for about eighteen months and says Muhlenberg men are few and far between down in that section. ENSIGN CREIGHTON FAUST '43 is one of the few men he has met.

One of our faithful correspondents is SERGEANT CARL F. RITTER '30. He has been hobnobbing with Royality and we quote: "Since writing to yo I attended the Empire Day concert with the London Philharmonic orchestra. The Queen and Princess Elizabeth were there. Next evening, while walking around Picadilly Circus I saw crowds in front of a theatre entrance. They were waiting for the Duchess of Kent and her party to come out. The English follow their Royal Family like we follow Hollywood notables--only with more respect and awe." Ritter has found a new use for the letters we write to you fellows. He says that after reading them he cuts them into four rectangular pieces for use as scrap paper in the orderly room.

Charlie Stopp '30 was still in England on May 24 with the rating of Technical Sergeant. He insists that Spring in England is as lovely as it is anywhere else, and doubly beautiful after the rainy and foggy months of last winter. SERGEANT HOWARD KEIPER '45, who is somewhere in England, received the Air Medal for "meritorious achievements while participating in bombardment missions over enemy territory." He has been flying as nose gunner on a Liberator. In an attack on Hamm, bullet-proof glass was shot out of the turret in which he was riding.

T/5 EDWARD BRIGGS '43 is looking for some Muhlenberg men in Newfoundland. We hope by this time he has found CAPTAIN GOMER REES '23 CHARLIE KRAUSS '46 is somewhere on the other side of the Atlantic still " anticipating Muhlenberg in the Spring."

From the Southwest Pacific ENSIGN CALVIN LOEW '43 gives us this report on ENSIGN JIM HEMSTREET '44, who is on the other side of the world. One of Hemstreet's friends in Midshipman's School brands him as " a soap-box politician who would rather argue than eat." Loew agrees with him completely. As for Loew himself, he's in the amphibious forces as supply and disbursing officer. Riding the waves on an LCI, he says, isn't the smoothest type of sailing the Navy has to offer.

AL PIERCE '42 is back again to report that the war will soon be over since he and SAMMY MELLNER '40 have made contact and consolidated their position. Unconsciously they celebrated the opening of the second

front by drinking their final toast for the evening on June 6, 1944 at 2:15 a.m. Both of them have a New York APO address. AL SENSENBACH '42 wrote to us from somewhere in England on Invasion day. A few weeks before that he met Ensign Bob Holben '42, when the latter's LST reached the United Kingdom.

SERGEANT MARNE CLARK '40 wrote to us in May from somewhere in England. He is stationed in a battalion message center. CAPTAIN WALTER A. BANKS '30 has put in two winters in Alaska and found the second one decidedly more comfortable than the first.

SECOND LIEUTENANT EARL E. REHRIG has arrived overseas for combat duty after a 5,000-mile flight from the United States to the Mediterranean theatre according to an official release from the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces. He will serve as bombardier navigator in a veteran B-25 Mitchell bomber squadron which has participated in the Tunisian, Sicilian and Italian campaigns.

Corporal Ian Tarbet '42 continues as an instructor in the signal schools at Kelly Field, Texas, and is still hoping to see some action. PFC. BERT LEVINSTONE '42, now at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, has been accepted for interneship at the Newark Beth Israel Hospital beginning July 1, 1945. Al Weiss of the same class goes to Sinai Hospital in Baltimore and Gene Laigon to Philadelphia General.

NORMAN C. HOFFMAN '46 came through with a small piece of currency for our collection which he says is "used in Texas at the present even though it is the same that is used back in the states." He describes Texas as "the United States of which the other 47 are a part."

LIEUTENANT PARIS DESANTIS '40 is in a de-activated fighter control squadron stationed in Fresno, California. The squadron has been kept on the move for the past six months and is now on maneuvers. From the West Coast, S1/c WOODY GUTH '41 reports that on D Day the people there were more joyful than anyone else. Out there, he says, everyone is anxious for some more fireworks with "out slant-eyed neighbors."

MAJOR EARL G. LOSER '13 returned on Memorial Day from a trip to England and intermediate points, involving travel by both Army transport and plane. With his letter came a few pieces of Iceland coin for the collection we told you about in our last letter. From PERRY SCOTT'S father we hear that he is in the British Isles as a pilot of a B-24 Liberator bomber with the Eighth Army Air Force.

Here are the promotions that have come to our attention during the last few weeks: LIEUTENANT (J.G.) GEORGE SWEDA '43; TECHNICAL SERGEANT CALVIN S. ACHEY '43; CORPORAL JOHN A. DETWEILER '32; SERGEANT WILLIAM OTTO '45; CAPTAIN THEODORE E. ORR '14; SERGEANT ROY E. SHUPP '34; CORPORAL JAMES F. FEEMAN '44; LIEUTENANT JOHN R. KERN '42; SERGEANT JOHN M. STOYECK '43; ENSIGN NEWTON K. DEIBERT '44; PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CARL F. KNOWLES '44; CAPTAIN LOUIS BERSTEIN '31; ENSIGN GEORGE E. GRUBE '44; ENSIGN DAVID E. GOTTLIEB '44; and ENSIGN THOMAS S. MILLER '44.

These are the new names that have been added to the service roster during the past two weeks: A/S Martin R. Woodard '40; Lt. Earle E. Moll '27; Cpl. Wilbur F. Price '44; Cpl. Raymond S. Scholl '46; Pvt. Herbert Fries '24; Cpl. Raymond Griesemer '41; A/C James E. Fox '43; Pvt. Samuel R. Richeson '44; and Pvt. Howard G. Blank '44.

That's the story for this time. We'll be waiting to hear from as many of you fellows as get a chance to write and meanwhile, we'll catch up with the personal letters we owe to about fifty of you. We'd like to wish you a good Fourth of July, but we know this letter won't reach you before that time. Happy hunting until we see you again.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office